

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A terminal fitting, comprising a base plate (24), at least one fastening piece (26) extending from a side edge of the base (24) and configured to be crimped at least partly around an outer circumferential surface (32) of a seal (30) fit on a wire (10) for fastening the seal (30) together with the wire (10), wherein:

the fastening piece (26) has a contact surface (29) for contacting the seal (30) and at least one seal protecting portion (27) disposed at an intermediate position on the fastening piece (26) and at a corner of the contact surface (29), the seal protecting portion (27) being aligned at an ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface (29) of the fastening piece (26).

2. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the seal protecting portion (27) is formed over substantially an entire side edge adjacent the contact surface (29) of the fastening piece (26).

3. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the contact surface (29) of the fastening piece (26) is crimped to deform the seal (30) and to fasten the seal (30) together with the wire (10), the seal protecting portion (27) being disposed and aligned at a selected ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface (29) for avoiding contact with the seal (30).

4. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein at least two of the fastening pieces (26) are provided and are displaced along a longitudinal direction (LD) of the terminal fitting (20).

5. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein a rear edge of the ~~bottom~~ base plate (24) is a portion previously coupled to and then separated

from a carrier-(50), wherein the seal protecting portion-(27) being spaced from the rear edge.

6. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the fastening piece-(26) is at a lateral end of the base plate-(24).

7. (currently amended) A terminal fitting, comprising: a base-(24) having opposite side edges extending parallel to a longitudinal direction-(LD), fastening pieces (26) extending respectively from the side edges of the base-(24) and configured to be crimped at least partly around an outer circumferential surface-(32) of a seal-(30) fit on a wire-(10) and positioned on the base-(24), each of the fastening pieces-(26) having a contact surface-(29) extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction-(LD) for contacting the seal-(30), and seal protecting surfaces-(27) disposed on the fastening pieces-(26) along edges of the contact surfaces-(29), the seal protecting surfaces-(27) being aligned at an ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26) for avoiding biting contact with the seal-(30).

8. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting portion-(27) is formed over substantially entire side edges adjacent the contact surface-(29) of each of the fastening pieces-(26).

9. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting surfaces-(27) extend linearly at the ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface (29) of the fastening piece-(26).

10. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting surfaces-(27) are curved and have tangents aligned at the ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26).

11. A terminated wire, comprising:

a wire ~~(10)~~ having a longitudinal direction ~~(LD)~~ and an end, a conductive core ~~(11)~~ extending along the longitudinal direction ~~(LD)~~ from the end and an insulation coating ~~(12)~~ surrounding at least a portion of the core ~~(11)~~;

a substantially tubular seal ~~(30)~~ mounted over the insulation coating ~~(12)~~ in proximity to the end of the wire ~~(10)~~, the seal ~~(30)~~ having an outer circumferential surface ~~(32)~~; and

a terminal fitting ~~(20)~~ having base ~~(24)~~ extending along the longitudinal direction ~~(LD)~~ and engaging a portion of the outer circumferential surface ~~(32)~~ of the seal ~~(30)~~, the base ~~(24)~~ having opposite side edges, fastening pieces ~~(26)~~ extending respectively from the side edges of the base ~~(24)~~ and crimped at least partly around the outer circumferential surface ~~(32)~~ of the seal ~~(30)~~, each of the fastening pieces ~~(26)~~ having a contact surface ~~(29)~~ extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction ~~(LD)~~ and contacting the outer circumferential surface ~~(32)~~ of the seal ~~(30)~~, and seal protecting surfaces ~~(27)~~ disposed on the fastening pieces ~~(26)~~ along edges of the contact surfaces ~~(29)~~, the seal protecting surfaces ~~(27)~~ being aligned at an ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface ~~(29)~~ of the fastening piece ~~(26)~~ for avoiding biting contact with the seal ~~(30)~~.

12. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting surfaces ~~(27)~~ extend linearly at the ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface ~~(29)~~ of the fastening piece ~~(26)~~.

13. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting surfaces ~~(27)~~ are curved and have tangents aligned at the ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface ~~(29)~~ of the fastening piece ~~(26)~~.

14. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting portion ~~(27)~~ is formed over substantially entire side edges adjacent the contact surface ~~(29)~~ of each of the fastening pieces ~~(26)~~.